

ABSTRACT

A method of treating samples containing hepatitis C virus (HCV) which method comprises treating HCV-
5 containing samples with a treating agent containing (1)
an acidifying agent, and (2) a protein-denaturing agent,
or an amphoteric surfactant or a cationic surfactant
having both a straight chain alkyl group of 10 or more
carbon atoms and a tertiary amine or a quaternary
10 ammonium salt in the same molecule, to effect the release
of the HCV antigen and the inactivation of antibodies
that bind to the HCV antigen, and the like.